

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 14. 1710.

I Have been complaining of our late Rabbles, the horrid Invasions of the publick Peace, by Tumults, Riots, and Breach of the Laws; I have endeavour'd to prove these Things can meet with no Approbation from the Queen, or from her Ministry: I am now to Enquire, whether they can be approv'd by the Parliament which are to meet — If neither of these can be suppos'd to approve or encourage these Things, where shall the Patrons of them be found?

It cannot be expected of me, that I should say, what this or that Man, *either in the Ministry, or in the Parliament*, may, in his own private Sense, say, or think of

these Tumults; nor is my Argument concern'd in it at all: If any are got in by Mobbs, and Tumults, so far they may have been said to approve the Method; and some have said of others, if they do not approve of them, Why do they not Suppress and Discourage them? Why are not the People punish'd, who have been prov'd Guilty? *And the like* — These Things may be spoken to hereafter, but they are not the present Business of this Paper.

I am now speaking to what they can be suggested to do, *as a Parliament, or as a Ministry*; and in this Capacity, I do say, *and repeat it again*, They cannot give the least Encouragement to Rabble, and Tumult —

mult — The Article of the Mob is contrary to the very Nature and Being of Government, and consequently opposite to the Officers of State — It is contrary to the very Being and Nature of the Constitution, and therefore Inconsistent with a free Parliament.

Can any Man suggest to me, that the Parliament now approaching, can, Parliamentarily, approve of a Mob? — That the Legislative Authority can give a Sanction to what in its own Nature is Destructive to the Laws themselves, and to the Legislation that has Constituted them? — Mob and Constitution, Tumult and Government, Rabble and Parliament, are all Contradictions to one another, Inconsistencies, and a horrid Jargon of Nonsense, that we know nothing of, in the Language of the Revolution.

For the Queen to approve of them, is for her Majesty to Govern without the *Scepter*; for the Ministry to approve them, is to Manage without the Seals; for the Parliament to approve them, is to assimilate that House to them, bring the Mob up to the Legislature, and bring the Legislature down to the Mob.

To say the Parliament should Vote these Tumults Legal, is to say they should Vote themselves out of the Constitution, Vote the Rabble into the Constitution, and Vote the Constitution into one mighty Mob; even the Mob itself, is not so Ignorant as this, *tho' this is the Day of their Delusions* — The poor People know they are in the wrong, and expos'd to be Censur'd and Punish'd by the Law; but the Clergy, and a Party to whom they are Tools, are the People who have buoy'd them up with Hopes of Impunity; and that the People they have brought in, will not fail to Patronize the Mistake they have been brought by.

And how will these People appear Disappointed? How will they be sham'd of their *Sperabamus illam esse*? Such Hope must make sham'd, because it will be always Disappointed — *Alas!* whoever has Encourag'd them out of the House, and may still, *you may take this for granted*, they

can never be Encourag'd within; and I am positive in this, not from my Acquaintance with the Persons, or Assurance from them directly, but from the undoubted Nature of the Thing — There is such a Contrariety and Aversion between Tumult and Government, Rabbles and Parliament, that really the Thing is impracticable — A Parliament can never approve the turning Justice into Violence, and Truth into Superstition.

Parliament Men, meerly such, and in their private Capacities may do much, may cry up, and promote the Follies of the Street; and I have heard, that a great many of our time-of-day Parliament Men, have been thought to do so in their Elections — *But as Members of Parliaments*, no Man can give me a Precedent for it — There is a great deal of difference between Parliament Men, and *Parliament Members* — They are the first wherever they are, or go, but the other signifies their Acting Capacities — *Now let us Examine*, when the Parliament comes together, *What will they do?* — Will they Vote the Legality of pulling down the Meeting Houses? If they do, they must Vote, that the Queen Marching her Guards against the Mob in the Streets, was Illegal; for it cannot be Lawful for a Military Force to suppress Legally Assembled People in performance of a Legal Action: *Will they Vote* the breaking of Windows, and knocking down peaceable People in the Street, LEGAL? *If they do*, may they not reasonably be desir'd to consider, *who may be knock'd down next?* For Mob makes no Distinction.

It is the greatest Absurdity imaginable to think, that the Ministry, the Parliament, the Government, can, in the least approve of these Riots — Nor can I think, but they will take proper Methods at their Meeting, not to let the World be long deluded with the Suggestion.

The People who have boasted so much, and promis'd such mighty Things to their Cause, from the appearance of these People in the Street, and from the Noise they have had, must be under great Disappointment,

ment, and the Eyes of the Common People will be visibly enlightned by that Disappointment.

This is another Demonstration of what I have all along been saying, viz. That Ministry, or Parliament, or whoever you please to Represent, as having in their Hands, the Power and Administration of the Government, they cannot A& upon the Foot of the present Raging Party among us; they cannot pursue Tory Measures, they cannot answer the End or Expectation of our furious High-Flyers. — They are Mad-Men in expecting it, and the other must be Mad whenever they do it.

I confess, if I were to suppose the High-Flying Generation were to have the Ascendant, and were to wish them a speedy Passage off of the Stage, I might wish that Parliament, Ministry, and Government should join, and go their pace; all which would, of course, tend to their Dissolution and Destruction, as a Party. — For all Precipitations tend to Confusion, as naturally, as Fire burns, or Water flows. — And I may go on with this, for the making that Party ashamed of their Impolitick haste, hereafter. — But as it is not possible, or at least not probable to be so, methinks the Folly of the Party without Doors, should by this time, have spent itself, and they should begin to see.

And what should they see?

Why, 1st. They might see, that were they to go on in the Way they have begun, they would ruin themselves, destroy their Interest, ruin their Party, and overthrow their Friends.

2. They might see, that their Friends cannot stand by them, in the Excesses they run into; the very Members they Choose, will be bound by the Trust they themselves commit to them, to discourage, disown, condemn, and perhaps punish the Disorders and Excesses these have been Guilty of.

3. They might see, that their Methods tend to break that Great and Sacred Circle of the Law, within which all

our great Ones must walk. — And And of which it may be said, whoever sets his Foot without it, in the Administration, will be of Course cut off.

If these People think these Things are not so, they must go on to the Experiment, and that way they will be soon convinc'd, the Consequents will be heavy. — For, as their Friends cannot Countenance them in the beginning, so, if they go on, they cannot avoid punishing them.

And this brings me to the Sum of the whole matter, and which may serve as an Inference drawn from the whole, of what I have been a long time saying.

If the Ministry, if the P——t must, by the Nature and Consequence of Things, A& upon the Foot of the Revolution, and carry on the same Principle; if they must be Whigs, and must proceed upon Whiggish Foundations, as I think is made very evident; Then,

1. High-Flyers and Furious Tories, are as much Enemies to the present Ministry, as they were to the last.
2. High-Flyers and Tories, are as Dangerous to the Government as they were before.
3. To speak against, expose, and detect High-Flyers and Tories, and their Secret Practices against the Government, and against the Peace of this Nation, is as much our Duty, and is as much a Service to the Government under this Ministry, as under the Old; and the present Ministry ought to think themselves serv'd and oblig'd by it.
4. It will not be long before the present Ministry will see, the High-Flyers and Tories are the Enemies of their Establishment, and will think themselves serv'd and oblig'd, by opposing and exposing these Men, and their Measures. — And that as, much as any Men ever did before them.

And

And thus I have brought the Thing down by just Degrees, to its proper Extent, from whence I draw this Fundamental Maxim, which I lay down in short, but shall pursue

more largely in its Course, viz. That High Flying, as formerly explain'd, and generally understood in England, is utterly inconsistent with, and an Enemy to a Revolution Government.

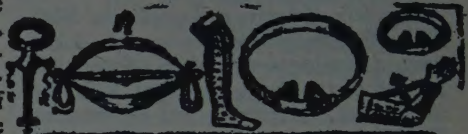
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